

**COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE
FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2009 1:00PM – 2:00PM
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

CHOICE Board Members in Attendance: Blake Jackson, Senator Jean Breaux, Senator Vaneta Becker, Nick Petrone, John Holmes, Jean Macdonald, Kay Crawford, Dr. F. Timothy Janis, Pete Emigh

CHOICE Board Members Absent: Prudence Twigg, Rep. Peggy Welch, Dorian Maples, Glenda Russell, Noble Stallons

Visitors in Attendance: Becky Carter, Linda Muckway, Jim Allbaugh, Becky Johnson, Justine Currie, Orion Bell, Debbie Pierson, Cynthia McQuigg, John Cardwell, Mary Ann Maroon, Paul Chase, Ruth Ratzlaff, Angie Amos, Megan Ornellas, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson, Willie Poindexter, Sheila Killebrew, Karen Gilliland

Call to Order: Chairperson Blake Jackson called the meeting to order. Celeste Stinson announced that the Board had five new members and read a brief bio on each member: Kay Crawford, Dr. F. Timothy Janis, John Holmes, Jean Macdonald and Dorian Maples.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the March, May, June, September and November 2008 meetings. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

FSSA Division of Aging Update: Director Megan Ornellas provided the Division update, including updated numbers for the Aged and Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury Waivers' clients served and waitlist. The number of people served on the Aged and Disabled Waiver has increased by over 10% and the A&D Waiver no longer has a waiting list. The length of time for processing people on the A&D waiver is down dramatically; it was taking anywhere from 55 to 70 days for processing and now the turnaround time is down to the single digits.

Director Ornellas shared information on number people on the waitlist found to no longer be in need of services. Senator Becker inquired as to why people would no longer need services and Director Ornellas responded that the Division is looking into this issue with the AAAs.

Chairperson Jackson asked questions about how CHOICE financials are tracked. Director Ornellas and Jade Luchauer explained the financial procedures. Senator Becker and Dr. Janis inquired about the distinction of elderly and disabled services under CHOICE and Jade provided a response.

Senator Becker asked why there was such a decline in the CHOICE waitlist from September to October and Jade responded it was due to the push to put eligible clients on the A&D Waiver. Chairperson Jackson asked if Director Ornellas could confirm there was no disruption in services for clients and she said that was correct.

Director Ornellas showed data on congregate and home delivered meals. From November 2007 to November 2008, there was a significant increase in the number of congregate and home delivered meals. Jean Macdonald asked if congregate meal participants can also receive food stamps. Director Ornellas confirmed that people can receive food stamps as well as home delivered or congregate meals. Jean asked if this would be considered "double-dipping" resources. Jade Luchauer stated that congregate and home delivered meals are usually only one meal daily. Nick Petrone said Jean raised a good point and he would look into the issue.

Senator Becker asked why the number of home delivered meal participants decreased from November 2007 to November 2008. Director Ornellas said participants decreased in some AAAs but increased in others and the overall number of participants has increased. Senator Becker inquired if more people utilize congregate meal sites than home delivered meals and Director Ornellas said that would also vary by AAA.

Director Ornellas reviewed the budget. Medicaid is increasing only 2.5% and it is not anticipated growth will change. The proposed budget has the CHOICE program taking a \$4 million reduction annually for the next biennium, but it is anticipated the Division can handle this through attrition so no one should be removed from services.

There was discussion regarding the budget's effects on provider rates.

Senator Becker inquired if the AAAs had been asked to stop putting people on the CHOICE program. Director Ornellas responded that in anticipation of the budget, she requested the AAAs not add new people to the CHOICE program in order to avoid a situation where the AAAs have to remove someone from services. There was discussion about nursing facility level of care, which many CHOICE clients do not meet.

John Cardwell shared his concerns about the proposed budget cuts and its effects on the CHOICE program.

Senator Becker asked for information regarding the number of people moved from CHOICE to the A&D Waiver and Director Ornellas responded there are currently about 70 people moved each month. Senator Becker requested information on services people are receiving and if people are entering nursing facilities. Director Ornellas responded that she would ask the AAAs to coordinate the information per her request.

Old Business: Celeste reviewed a summary of CHOICE services provided in FY08 to the 10,793 client served. She also stated the CHOICE waitlist was 3,540 people in October 2008. Additionally, there are 41 counties that have Assisted Living facilities which house a total of 632 A&D residents. Chairperson Jackson asked why Area 2's

waitlist is bigger than others and Celeste responded she would look into the issue. Additionally, Celeste said she would send a map of the AAAs to the CHOICE Board. Chairperson Jackson requested the number of providers and Celeste will research that information.

CICOA Executive Director Orion Bell provided handouts and presented information about the AAAs that had been previously requested by the CHOICE Board. Mr. Bell estimated that it would take \$5.4 million to clear the current CHOICE waitlist. Senator Becker asked if the current waitlist would double, given Mr. Bell's estimate of \$5.4 million in addition to cutting back by \$4 million. Director Ornellas said that answer will not be known until there is a good waitlist policy in place.

John Cardwell brought up Medicaid modernization. Senator Becker said it continued to be a problem in Area 16 and asked about the process for putting someone on a waiver. Director Ornellas explained the procedures and length of time expected for A&D Waiver processing. Senator Becker asked Nick Petrone to verify that a person may contact the call center in order to schedule an appointment at their local DFR location.

New Business: Elections of chairperson and vice-chair will take place during the next meeting.

Chairperson Jackson called for a motion for adjournment with unanimous approval from the Board.

